



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal

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May 19, 2010

Dear Code Official:

Recently we were made aware that certain generator installations in the state of New Hampshire may have some safety concerns. Gas fired generators manufactured by Generac and also units manufactured by them under the Seimens product name are being distributed by large retail stores such as Home Depot, Lowes, etc. The manufacturer instruction manual states that the generators can be placed eighteen inches from combustible exterior walls. NFPA 37 requires that the generators be placed no less than five (5) feet from the combustible exterior wall of the structure. Currently this office has not been able to substantiate that the testing performed on these generators meets the exception of NFPA 37: 4.1.4.(2).

Until such time as this office can substantiate the claims of the manufacturer that their weatherproof enclosure meets the exception that allows installations to be less than five feet from combustible surfaces, we are instructing installers and code officials to require that the generator installations meet the minimum five foot clearance distance.

Numerous installations have been identified in New Hampshire and we are sending this notification so that you can be aware of a potential safety hazard that might exist in your community. Please feel free to contact me or Chief Mechanical Inspector Jeff Cyr or Chief Electrical Inspector Mark Hilbert for further information.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Farley, CFI
Deputy State Fire Marshal
Bureau Commander, Bureau of Building Safety & Construction